

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims

The Office Action mailed April 15, 2009 has been reviewed and the comments of the Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Claims 1-24 were pending in the application. Claims 2-5, 9-11, 15-17 and 21-23 are currently being amended. Claims 1, 7, 8, 13, 14, 19 and 20 are currently being canceled. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, are presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier. Accordingly, claims 2-6, 9-12, 15-18 and 21-24 are now pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter made in the final Office Action with respect to claims 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, 18, 21, 22 and 24. By way of this amendment and reply, "objected to" claim 3 has been amended to place that claim in independent form to include the features of its base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, presently pending independent claim 3 is now in allowable form based on the indications made in the final Office Action with respect to that claim. Claims 2 and 5 depend from claim 3, and thus those claims are also now in allowable form. Also, by way of this amendment and reply, "objected to" claim 4 has been amended to place that claim in independent form to include the features of its base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, presently pending independent claim 4 is now in allowable form based on the indications made in the final Office Action with respect to that claim. Claim 6 depends from claim 3, and thus that claim is also now in allowable form. Further, by way of this amendment and reply, "objected to" claim 9 has been amended to place that claim in independent form to include the features of its base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, presently pending independent claim 9 is now in allowable form based on the indications made in the final Office Action with respect to that claim. Claim 11 depends from claim 9, and thus that claim is also now in allowable form. Still further, by way of this amendment and reply, "objected to" claim 10 has been

amended to place that claim in independent form to include the features of its base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, presently pending independent claim 10 is now in allowable form based on the indications made in the final Office Action with respect to that claim. Claim 12 depends from claim 10, and thus that claim is also now in allowable form. Also, by way of this amendment and reply, "objected to" claim 15 has been amended to place that claim in independent form to include the features of its base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, presently pending independent claim 15 is now in allowable form based on the indications made in the final Office Action with respect to that claim. Claim 17 depends from claim 15, and thus that claim is also now in allowable form. Further, by way of this amendment and reply, "objected to" claim 16 has been amended to place that claim in independent form to include the features of its base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, presently pending independent claim 16 is now in allowable form based on the indications made in the final Office Action with respect to that claim. Claim 18 depends from claim 16, and thus that claim is also now in allowable form. Also, by way of this amendment and reply, "objected to" claim 21 has been amended to place that claim in independent form to include the features of its base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, presently pending independent claim 21 is now in allowable form based on the indications made in the final Office Action with respect to that claim. Claim 23 depends from claim 21, and thus that claim is also now in allowable form. Lastly, by way of this amendment and reply, "objected to" claim 22 has been amended to place that claim in independent form to include the features of its base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, presently pending independent claim 21 is now in allowable form based on the indications made in the final Office Action with respect to that claim. Claim 24 depends from claim 22, and thus that claim is also now in allowable form.

Prior Art Rejections

In the final Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 17, 19, 20 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatenable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0271122 ("Jonsson") in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 6,721,367 ("Miya"). Due to the cancellation of claims 1, 7, 8, 13, 14, 19 and 20 and due to the changed

dependencies of the other claims under rejection so that they now depend on an allowed claim (see above), this rejection is now moot.

It is noted that page 5 of the final Office Action lists claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 16, 21 and 22 as being rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatenable over Jonsson in view of Miya and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,748,009 ("Reznik"), but this is believed to be in error, since page 7 of the final Office Action specifically points out that certain features in these claims patentably distinguish over Miya, in its indication of the allowability of claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 16, 21 and 22.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, since all of the issues raised in the final Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding the application, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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